

**Maine EMS Examination Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2004
Maine EMS Conference Room, Augusta**

Minutes

Present: J. Vaniotis – Chair, K. Roderick, D. Gilman, T. Coleman, J. LeBrun, B. Hawkes

Absent: R. Doughty, T. Norsworthy, G. Utgard

Staff: D. White

D. White reported that T. Norsworthy and G. Utgard notified him that they would not be attending the meeting.

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

A. Assign Timekeeper – B. Hawkes

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- 1. Order of Exams**
- 2. B. Hawkes & NREMT**
- 3. Examiner Training**

2. Minutes – November 18, 2003, meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the November 18, 2003, meeting were reviewed

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 18, 2003, meeting. (Coleman; LeBrun - motion carries).

3. Old Business

A. SMCC Comparison of Intermediate Exams

The Committee continued its previous discussion of SMCC's comparison of the Maine and NREMT EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I) exams.

At the November 2003 meeting, K. Roderick suggested that since Maine EMS had already approved the NREMT Paramedic exam as an equivalent exam to the Maine test, the same process be used to determine if the NREMT EMT-I exam could be accepted in lieu of the Maine written and practical exam. D. White reported that when staff reviewed the NREMT Paramedic exam to determine its equivalency with the Maine Paramedic exam, the following rationale was used in determining the NREMT Paramedic Exam as being equivalent to the Maine exam:

- Maine uses the current DOT National Standard Curriculum (NSC) for Paramedic as the recognized curriculum for training Paramedics in Maine.
- The NREMT exam for Paramedic is based upon the DOT NSC curriculum.
- While the practical stations and written exams differ between the Maine and NREMT exams, it is recognized that both exams use a sampling of knowledge and skills to determine minimum competency. Therefore, since the NREMT exam is based upon the DOT NSC curriculum, and in that the NREMT, like Maine, uses a sampling of skills and knowledge to determine minimum standards, it is reasonable to conclude that the NREMT Paramedic exam is a valid exam for testing minimum competency for purposes of licensure. Maine EMS staff approved the NREMT Paramedic exam as meeting or exceeding the Maine requirements for licensure testing at the Paramedic level.

Based upon the aforementioned rationale, the committee determined that:

- Maine uses the current Maine EMS-approved curriculum for EMT-I as the recognized curriculum for training EMT-Is in Maine. According to Dwight Corning, Maine EMS Education and Training Coordinator, the 1999 NSC for EMT-I meets or exceeds Maine's current curriculum.
- The NREMT exam for EMT-I is based upon the DOT NSC curriculums. NREMT has an exam based upon the 1985 NSC and one based upon the 1999 NSC for EMT-I.
- While the practical stations and written exams differ between the Maine and NREMT exams, it is recognized that both exams use a sampling of knowledge and skills to determine minimum competency. Therefore, since the NREMT exam is based upon the DOT NSC curriculum, and in that the NREMT, like Maine, uses a sampling of skills and knowledge to determine minimum competency, it is reasonable to conclude that the NREMT Intermediate exam based upon the 1999 NSC for EMT-I is a valid exam for testing minimum competency for purposes of licensure.

Motion: That successful completion of the National Registry of EMT (NREMT) exam for EMT-Intermediate, which is based upon the 1999 DOT National Standard Curriculum, be accepted as meeting state licensing testing requirements for persons seeking licensure as an EMT-Intermediate in the State of Maine (Gilman;LeBrun carries 4-0-1 – Hawkes abstains).

B. Student Handbook

Staff reported that the student handbook is still a work in progress, subject to prioritization by staff in light of other commitments. D. White will check with J. Bradshaw on the status of the handbook and will also work on compiling exam related materials for the handbook.

C. Other – Examiner Training

The Chair requested that this item remain on the agenda as “work to be done”.

6. New Business

A. Paramedic Exam

Staff reported that the Board, in response to a letter sent by J. Vaniotis, has asked the committee to look into options for replacing the current EMT-Paramedic exam.

The committee discussed the process to be used in evaluating various options for replacing the Maine EMS Paramedic exam. They also identified the following options for exam models:

1. Use the NREMT Paramedic Exam
2. Maine EMS writes its own Paramedic exam
3. A third party writes the exam for Maine EMS
4. A third party company other than NREMT provides the Paramedic exam
5. Do away with part or all of the Paramedic exam
6. Do nothing

Discussion continued about the future of testing including the possibility of using Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT). Members questioned whether other agencies of the State were using CAT and if there are any plans to use CAT for the many licensing exams used by different boards and agencies within the State. D. Gilman suggested that existing infrastructure (e.g., Community Colleges, Adult Education sites) could be utilized.

It was suggested that a statewide system/consortium for the delivery of written examinations could be beneficial.

D. White will check with the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation about CAT.

J. LeBrun will check with the State of MA about its use of a third party exam.

B. Order of Exams

J. Vaniotis questioned whether the committee needed to address the issue of exam order, specifically whether a standard should be established requiring that the practical exam component of the Maine EMS exam be completed prior to the written portion.

Staff indicated that, while this was an issue when written exam scoresheets were scanned at Maine EMS, the problem has become self-limiting now that the regions are mailing exam scoresheets directly to NREMT. Several of the regions represented indicate that they routinely require the practical being completed prior to the written, but that it's nice to have the flexibility. **Consensus was that no action was needed at this time concerning exam order.**

B. Hawkes & NREMT

J. Vaniotis reported that committee member Bob Hawkes has been asked by NREMT to participate in creating a new NREMT exam. Bob will be traveling to Ohio in March to participate in the process.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2004.

A. Set Agenda - Next agenda to include:

A. Paramedic Exam

B. Examiner Training

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White